



Self-guided tour Central area campus and surrounding area

A warm welcome to the University of Edinburgh and the city of Edinburgh. The University has a number of sites within the city – this tour is for the Central area campus.

Any prospective student of our University will find this tour useful as this campus is also home to the Main Library, Students' Association, Pleasance Sport Centre & Gym and a range of study spaces and other services that are open to all students at the University. Walking at a leisurely pace with time to take in Edinburgh's unique atmosphere and architecture, the tour should take no more than an hour. If you wish to extend the tour to include High School Yards, the Pleasance and Moray House School of Education, add approximately 30 minutes.

Look out for the various plaques around the University, which have been erected to commemorate the achievements of individuals who have been associated with the University through our 400 years. A map showing accessible routes and entrances can be downloaded from: www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/disability

Student Recruitment & Admissions
The University of Edinburgh
33 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JS
www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact: sra.enquiries@ed.ac.uk

11 50 George Square



Walk towards the Business School - The first modern building on your left, opened in 2014 and is home to the School of Literatures, Languages & Cultures.

Turn around and return to the NE corner of George Square.

12 Appleton Tower



Completed in 1966, the building is named after physicist Sir Edward Appleton. Recently redeveloped with teaching space used by a variety of subjects, as well as a café, computer labs, and social spaces.

13 Informatics Forum & Dugald Stewart Building



Designed by Bennetts Associates, the Informatics Forum has won numerous awards for its environmentally sustainable design and is used purely for research. Turn right onto Charles Street to pass the University's Visitors Centre, and the Dugald Stewart Building, which houses the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. This space provides a state-of-the-art centre for innovation and interaction, cutting-edge technology and flexible teaching space.

14 Teviot Row House



On your left is Teviot Row House, the oldest purpose built Students' Union in the world, opened in 1889. The building is now run by Edinburgh University Students' Association, and boasts five bars, a debating chamber, dining room, refectory and several meeting rooms. Often referred to as 'Hogwarts' by tourists; feel free to go in.

15 McEwan Hall



Leaving Teviot Row House, the large circular building on your left is McEwan Hall, financed by Sir William McEwan, MP for Central Edinburgh and founder of the famous city brewery. Once Edinburgh's premier concert venue, McEwan Hall has recently been redeveloped and normally hosts graduation ceremonies and exams. Designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, and completed in 1897, the interior was designed by William Palin with the images decorating the ceiling representing the various subjects offered by the University.

16 Potterrow Student Centre



On the opposite side of Bristo Square is Potterrow, another of the four Students' Association buildings and a lively and popular place to meet friends. Go in and see the student facilities for yourself, which include a bank, a shop, a café, a bar and the Chaplaincy Centre, which offers support for students of all faiths and none. Potterrow is also home to The Venue which hosts numerous themed nights throughout the year including gigs, ceilidhs, and a student club night called Big Cheese. Next to Potterrow is the Richard Verney Health Centre.

Exit Potterrow by the main door and turn right. Follow the railing and continue through the underpass and go along West College Street to enter Old College via the arch on your right.

17 Old College



On your right you will pass the Talbot Rice Gallery, and as you enter the quadrangle, turn left and follow the walkway around the courtyard and look for the plaque commemorating the University's first female graduate in 1812: James Miranda Barry, (c.1795-1865). She was an army surgeon and Inspector General of Hospitals in Canada, who lived as a man. Old College is the University of Edinburgh's oldest existing site, and is home to the impressive Playfair Library, the Law School and several administrative offices. Construction started in 1789. The

architect, Robert Adam, himself a graduate of the University, sadly died in 1792 but his brothers ensured that construction continued. However, the Napoleonic War halted progress once more until one of the greatest Scottish architects of the 19th century, William Playfair, continued the project. Sir Robert Rowand Anderson later added the dome. The "Golden Boy" standing proudly on the dome is reportedly modelled on Edinburgh athlete Anthony Hall.

This concludes the main self-guided tour. From the archway of Old College you are a 10 minute walk from Princes Street, and Waverley Train Station, however time permitting, we recommend extending your tour to include the following optional University sights. Upon exiting Old College turn right, and then left onto Drummond Street. Continue to the end of Drummond Street and cross the road at the pedestrian lights.

A The Pleasance / Pleasance Sport Centre & Gym



You will see the Pleasance Sport Centre and Gym straight ahead of you, which has undergone a £4.8 million extension and refurbishment. If you turn right, slightly further up the hill you will find the Pleasance complex on your left. Built by Alexander Paterson and Thomas Dott in 1791, it is used by the Students' Association, as well as being a prominent venue during the Fringe. Recently redeveloped, the building has various multipurpose spaces, as well as a theatre and bar.

Leaving the Pleasance by the main entrance, turn right, back down the hill, until you reach the crossroads at the bottom. Turn right and continue down Holyrood Road.

B St Leonard's Land / Moray House



On your right you will see St Leonard's Land, which houses Physical Education and the University swimming pool. Directly across the road is Moray House School of Education. Further along Holyrood Road, there is the Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Palace and Holyrood Park.

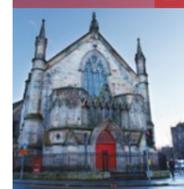
Retrace your steps back up Holyrood Road to the crossroads. Go straight across the junction, onto the Cowgate. There is a narrow cobbled road (High School Wynd) on the left which leads steeply up to Infirmary Street. Walk up and follow the curve to the right. Cross the road at the top and you will find yourself back at the main entrance to Old College. With your back to the main entrance to Old College, turn left and left again onto Chambers Street.

C Chambers Street



Adam House, on the north side of Chambers Street, is a modernistic neo-classical building built 1955, and thought to be named after architect Robert Adam. Today it is used for matriculation, exams and theatre productions. As you continue to walk along you will pass Minto House, home to Architectural Studies and History of Art, and the National Museum of Scotland. Turn left at the top of Chambers Street.

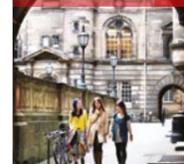
D Bedlam Theatre



In front of you, where the road splits, you will see the Bedlam Theatre. The former North Free Church was designed by architect Thomas Hamilton and built in 1846. In 1941 the church closed and the building is now home to the University of Edinburgh Theatre Company, showing over 40 productions every year. The name Bedlam is attributed to the building's proximity to Edinburgh's first mental health hospital.

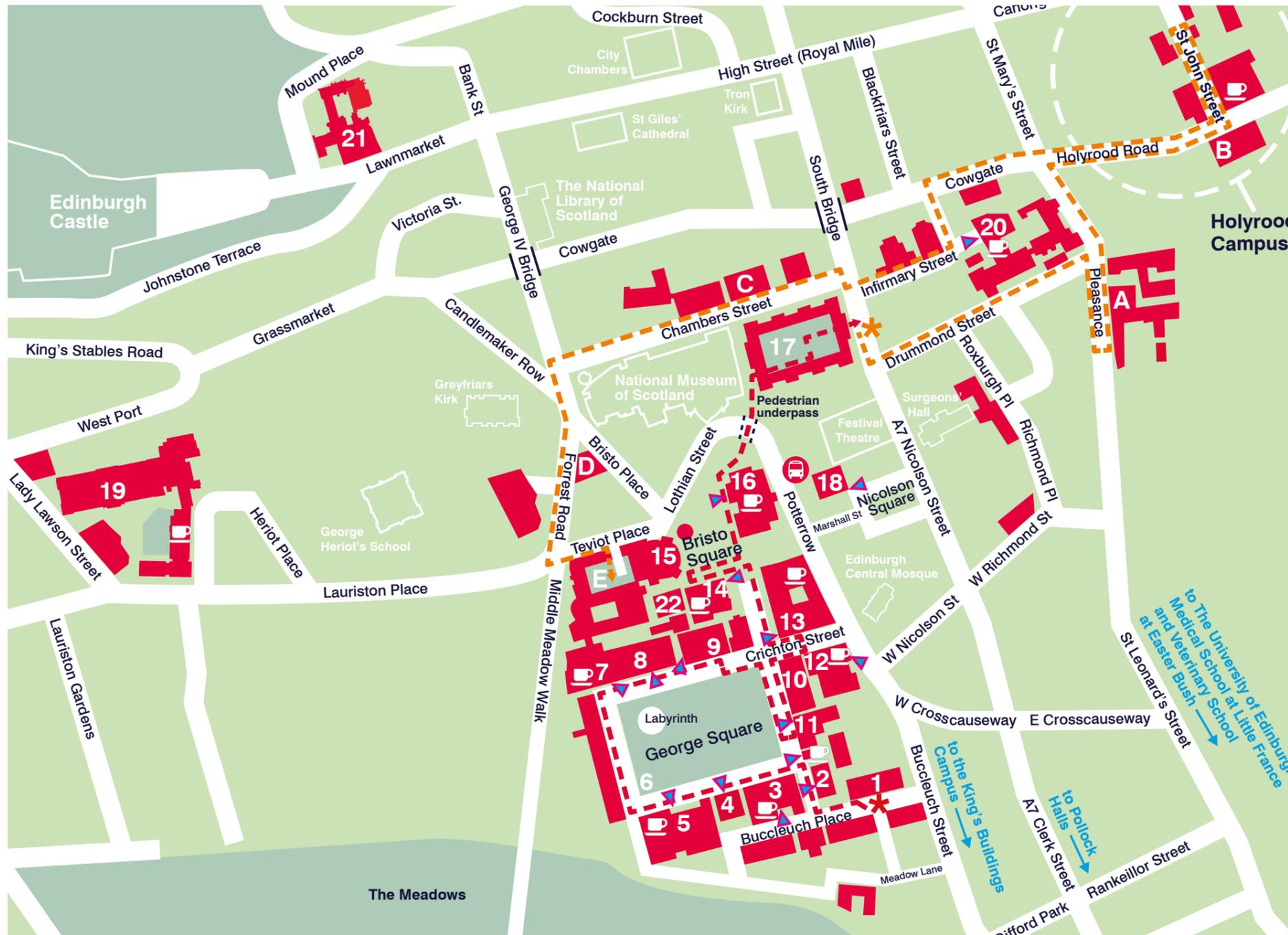
Take the right hand fork onto Forrest Road, and continue to the traffic lights at the end. Cross to the left, down Teviot Place. On your right walk through a large archway with iron gates.

E William Robertson Wing / Old Medical School and Nursing



Originally part of the Medical School this Grade A listed building has been refurbished to unite the School of History, Classics and Archaeology under one roof. The building is named after William Robertson (1721-1793), who studied Divinity at the University and was appointed to the role of University Principal in 1762.

Staying in the quadrangle, the Old Medical School is on your left hand side. You can find the Anatomy Lecture Theatre here; which is still used for 1st and 2nd year Medicine lectures. Nursing is also taught in this building. The School of Medicine was given formal recognition in 1726 and has since developed an impressive international reputation for both teaching and research. The Old Medical School where you now stand was completed in 1886. The 1800s were known for the grisly trade in dead bodies, when recently deceased corpses were illegally sold to the science of anatomy. A secret tunnel between College Wynd and the University's anatomy theatre was used to deliver dead bodies for dissection. In the 1820s, William Burke and William Hare committed an infamous series of murders to sell the bodies to Robert Knox's School of Anatomy. The pair were finally caught in 1828. Burke was tried and hanged, but Hare was released and never heard of again. Today's state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities for the School of Medicine are located at the Royal Infirmary, Little France.



Central area map key

- * → Main tour route start**
- 1** 33 Buccleuch Place
International Office and Student Recruitment and Admissions
- 2** David Hume Tower and Lecture Theatres
- 3** Business School
- 4** Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre
- 5** Main University Library
Student Counselling
Careers Service
Student Disability Service
- 6** West side of George Sq.
- 7** Chrystal Macmillan Building
- 8** Hugh Robson Building
- 9** 7 George Square
- 10** 57 George Square
- 11** 50 George Square
- 12** Appleton Tower
- 13** Informatics Forum
- 14** Teviot Row House
Student Union
- 15** McEwan Hall
- 16** Potterrow Student Centre
Students' Association,
Chaplaincy Centre,
Health Centre
- 17** Old College
Talbot Rice Gallery
- * → Optional route start**
- A** The Pleasance /
Pleasance Sport Centre
& Gym
- B** St Leonard's Land /
Moray House
- C** Chambers Street
Minto House
Charles Stewart House
Adam House
- D** Bedlam Theatre
- E** William Robertson Wing /
Old Medical School
- Other buildings**
- 18** Alison House
School of Music
- 19** Edinburgh College of Art
- 20** High School Yards
- 21** New College
School of Divinity
- 22** Reid Concert Hall
- University Bus Stop
(staff/students only)
- Refreshments
- Wheelchair access

1 33 Buccleuch Place



Built in 1766, Buccleuch Place is today home to various teaching, research and support departments, including the School of Economics and Asian Studies.

Turn right from the office, cross the access road, then walk up the steps on your right.

2 David Hume Tower (DHT) & Lecture Theatres



Currently undergoing a full refurbishment, this building is named after philosopher and historian David Hume. Born in Edinburgh in 1711, he is one of our youngest students, beginning his studies at age 12! DHT currently houses the School of Law who are temporarily based here whilst Old College is under refurbishment. The basement of DHT underwent refurbishment in 2014 and boasts new teaching rooms, a shop, copy centre, and study spaces; feel free to take a look by entering via the glass box on George Square. The three lecture theatres behind DHT are where many 1st and 2nd year lectures take place.

3 University of Edinburgh Business School



Standing with your back to the entrance of the glass box, to your left is the University of Edinburgh Business School. The building houses high quality teaching space for Business and Accounting students, and 'The Exchange' café.

Continue along George Square.

4 Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre



The next building on your left is the University's largest lecture theatre: Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre. Built in 1967, the theatre is used for teaching by a variety of subjects and is also used as a venue during the Fringe, the world's largest Arts festival which takes place in Edinburgh each August.

5 Main Library



One of the largest academic libraries in the world, the Main Library is home to over 3.5 million books and 500,000 e-books. Founded in 1580, the library moved to George Square in 1967, and has recently undergone a £60 million refurbishment. Facilities include group study pods, computer suites, and café. Located on the 3rd Floor, the Student Counselling, Careers and Disability Services provide advice and support for students on a range of matters all under one roof.

Continue around the south west corner of George Square.

6 The west side of George Square

As you walk past the Library, take a look to your left, you will see the Meadows, a green and leafy space popular with students. At number 19 you will pass the home of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies and at number 25, you will find the Catholic Chaplaincy, which was once the boyhood home of Sir Walter Scott.

7 The Chrystal Macmillan Building



At the NW corner is the Chrystal Macmillan Building, home of the School of Social and Political Science. Chrystal Macmillan (1872-1937) was among the first women to graduate from the University and was the first female science graduate.

Continue walking around the square.

8 The Hugh Robson Building



Built in 1978 and named after the then University Principal, today this building is used largely for Biomedical Science teaching, whilst 24 hour computer labs house over 200 computers. Opposite this building is the main entrance to George Square Gardens. Over summer the gardens are a well-known festival venue with vibrant open-air café-bars and a range of performances.

9 7 George Square, Psychology Building



Built in 1876, this was once George Watson's Ladies' College and was purchased by the University in 1973. Today the building is home to Psychology. Outside you will see the plaques for Robert Louis Stevenson: alumnus of the University, poet, and author; and Julius Kambarage Nyerere: graduate of the University, African statesman, and the first President of Tanzania.

10 57 George Square

57 George Square is home to the office for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science. Outside is the plaque for Benjamin Rush, who was a Signatory of the American Declaration of Independence and a medical graduate of the University. George Square was built by James Brown in 1766, as the first new development in a very overcrowded Old Town. Despite popular belief that George Square was so called after King George III, as is the case with Edinburgh's George Street, the square is in fact named after the builder, James Brown's elder brother George Brown. Mainly residential, it was considered a very fashionable place to live.